

The Cherwell Singers

Director: John Padley

Organ: Matthew Raisbeck

Music for an English Coronation

Handel, Parry, Vaughan Williams

Saturday 15 July 2006, 8.00pm

University Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Oxford

Zadok the Priest

G. F. Handel

Let thy hand be strengthened

G. F. Handel

O taste and see

R. Vaughan Williams

Old 100th

Arr, R. Vaughan Williams

Please join with the congregational verses, 1, 2 and 5

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

S. S. Wesley

The King shall rejoice

G. F. Handel

My heart is inditing

G. F. Handel

I was Glad

C. H. H. Parry

The four Coronation Anthems by George Frederick Handel were written for the coronation of George II in 1727. They are a remarkable collection which clearly display Handel's mastery as a composer of music for a Royal occasion. Handel successfully complements the pomp and ceremony of a coronation with carefully crafted building up of tension such as the opening of *Zadok the Priest* and the sheer exuberance of *The King shall rejoice*.

Vaughan Williams' setting of the words *O Taste and See* from psalm 34 are in stark contrast to the glories of Handel. A very simple yet highly effective composition which utilises solo voice and chorus. Very subtle yet hauntingly beautiful, *O Taste and See* was composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. In contrast to this is his robust setting of the hymn *Old 100th* composed for the same occasion, which we hope you will join with us in singing.

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.
3. (Choir only) O enter then his gates with praise...
4. (Choir only) For why? The Lord our God is good...
5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace by Samuel Sebastian Wesley and *I was glad* by Sir Hubert Parry were also composed for Queen Elizabeth's coronation and are established works of the English choral repertoire. In particular, *I was glad* has come to epitomise the celebration and ceremony of an English coronation.

The Cherwell Singers was founded in 1978 by a group of singers who wished to perform the vocal chamber music repertory, and several of the original singers are still part of the choir. Our repertory covers sacred and secular music from the late Medieval period to 20th-century works (some written especially for the choir), and includes not only central compositions of the choral repertory but many lesser-known pieces. The choir accepts bookings for weddings, dinners and other events, formal and informal, and we welcome enquiries from prospective new members.

Sopranos — Sue Bignal, Kipper Chipperfield, Sarah Franks, Claire Gill,
Lucy Goodwin, Louise Locock, Joanna Tucker

Altos — Virginia Allport, Julia Craig-McFeely, Caroline Higginbottom,
Stella Holman, Helen Maidlow, Sally Prime, Christine Saward

Tenors — Paul King, Guy Peskett, David Sutton, John Tucker

Basses — Philip Endean, Christopher Franks, Neil Herington, Paul Hodges,
Simon Jones, Ben King

Contact the choir: info@cherwellsingers.org or 01865 723056

Visit our website at www.cherwellsingers.org